

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /094 W

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P 211001Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMB TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1304

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

COMUSJ FUCHU JAPAN

COMNAVJ YOKOSUKA JAPAN

CINCPAC/POLAD HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 070

E. O. 11652: DECLAS FEB 21, 1975

TAGS: MARR,JA

SUBJ: REACTION TO USMC ARTILLERY EXERCISE

REF: ADMIN MARCORB CAMBUT 201140Z FEB 74 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: OKINAWA PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO
DEMONSTRATORS ATTEMPT TO BLOCK USMC ARTILLERY FIRING EXERCISE.
CHIEF OF PREFECTURAL POLICE PERSONALLY PROTESTED THE USMC
DECISION TO CONTINUE FIRING EXERCISE TO THE DFAB WHICH EXPECTS
MATTER TO BECOME DIET ISSUE POSSIBLE LEADING TO PRESSURE TO
CURTAIL FIRING. END SUMMARY.

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2. OKINAWA PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO FEBRUARY 20TH
INCIDENT IN WHICH GENSUIKYO LED DEMONSTRATORS ATTEMPTED TO BLOCK
USMC ARTILLERY FIRING EXERCISE (REPORTED REFTEL). PRESS STRESSED
REFORMIST CHARGES THAT CONTINUATION OF FIRING EXERCISE
WITH DEMONSTRATORS PRESENT ALONG HIGHWAY 104 AND IN TRAINING
AREA SHOWED RECKLESS DISREGARD FOR LIFE OF OKINAWANS AND
ALLEGED THAT THE USMC HAD IGNORED THREE POLICE REQUESTS TO CEASE
FIRING.

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3. ON FEBRUARY 21ST NAHA DEFENSE FACILITIES AGENCY BUREAU

DEPUTY DIRECTOR KATO (IN ABSENCE DFAB DIRECTOR) CALLED ON CONGEN CONCERNING MATTER. KATO REPORTED THAT THE CHIEF OF THE OKINAWAN PREFECTURAL POLICE KAMIKAWA HAD PERSONALLY PROTESTED TO THE DFAB THE USMC DECISION TO CONTINUE FIRING WHILE POLICE WERE TRYING TO EJECT DEMONSTRATORS FROM THE AREA. KAMIKAWA REPORTEDLY PROTESTED THAT USMC ACTION VIOLATED EARLIER UNDERSTANDING WITH USMC THAT FIRING WOULD CEASE IF DEMONSTRATORS ENTERED THE TRAINING AREA.

4. KATO SAID THAT HE ESPECTED THIS ISSUE TO COME UP IN THE DIET AND THAT THIS COULD LEAD TO PRESSURES TO SUSPEND FIRING, POSSIBLY EVEN UNTIL AFTER THIS SUMMER'S UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS.

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HE SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER LATER TODAY WITH THE USMC AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE WHAT STEPS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO MINIMIZE THE PROBLEM. CONGEN EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE USMC WOULD COOPERATE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT IT COULD WITHOUT DEGRADING TRAINING WHICH MUST CONTINUE.

5. KATO SEEMED GENUINELY SURPRISED WHEN CONGEN EXPLAINED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT IN COMPARABLE SITUATIONS IN THE U.S. FIRING EXERCISES TAKE PLACE WITHOUT CLOSING ROADS. KATO SAID THAT SUCH A PRACTICE MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE ON OKINAWA, BUT THAT IT WOULD NOW BE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN SINCE THE HIGHWAY HAD BEEN CLOSED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS FOR QTE SAFETY REASONS UNQT.

6. KATO ASKED IF THE USMC FIRING POSITIONS COULD BE MOVED SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 104 TO REMOVE THE NEED FOR CLOSING THE ROAD. CONGEN SAID THAT THIS WAS APPARENTLY NOT POSSIBLE IN PART FOR SAFETY REASONS, BUT THAT KATO COULD LEARN DETAILS FROM USMC.

SYLVESTER

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